

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 24152 280941Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00 TRSE-00

NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 SS-15 /064 W

----- 028996

R 271303Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2656

DEA WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 24152

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: BANGKOK WORLD ON NARCOTICS

FOR IEA, IPS, IBS, STATE FOR EA AND S/NM

EDITORIAL IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AFTERNOON DAILY BANGKOK WORLD
AUGUST 27 CALLS THE "COLOSSAL PROBLEMS" OF DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING
A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE THAI PEOPLE WHICH DEMANDS "A PROGRAM OF
STRENGTHENED LAW ENFORCEMENT, MORE RESEARCH, IMPROVED RE-
HABILITATION AND BETTER EDUCATION OF YOUTHS ON THE RISKS
THEY RUN" IN TAKING NARCOTICS. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS.

(BEGIN TEXT)

HEROIN CONTINUES TO PLAY A BIG ROLE IN THE THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL
SECURITY. DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING HAVE BECOME COLOSSAL
PROBLEMS THAT POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PERSONAL HEALTH AND
SAFETY OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR PEOPLE. HEADLINES IN
THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS TELL OF THE ARRESTS OF TWO ARMY
SERGEANTS WITH SEVEN KILOGRAMS OF NO.4 FIRST GRADE HEROIN AND A
COURIER WITH 15 KILOGRAMS OF COOKED OPIUM AND SEVEN KILOGRAMS OF
NO. 3 HEROIN AS HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR HONG KONG. IN ANOTHER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 24152 280941Z

REPORT, THE CRIMINAL COURT YESTERDAY SENTENCED A FRENCH

NATIONAL TO 16 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AFTER FINDING HIM GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE 10 KILOGRAMS OF FIRST GRADE MORPHINE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

BECAUSE IT IS A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS DRUG TRAFFICKING HAS BEEN ON THE RISE DURING THE PAST DECADE. IT IS REPORTED THAT THERE ARE IMMENSE PROFITS IN THE ILLICIT MARKET FOR THOSE WHO SMUGGLE NARCOTICS AND DRUGS INTO THE UNITED STATES. SUCCESSFUL CARRYING OUT OF A STEPPED-UP OR AN INCREASED NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING WILL REQUIRE NOT ONLY NEW RESOURCES OF MEN BUT AN EFFECTIVE REDEPLOYMENT OF EXISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS IN THE COUNTRY IS HIGH CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL FIGURES, THERE ARE ABOUT 600,000 ADDICTS WHOSE AVERAGE AGE IS 16-35 YEARS. THERE WERE ABOUT 80,000 OPIUM ADDICTS, WHOSE AVERAGE AGE WAS 45, THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM WHEN MARSHAL SARIT THANARAT ORDERED A BAN ON OPIUM ON JANUARY 1, 1959. THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS HAS GROWN RAPIDLY, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LURED INTO THE HABIT.

MP ARKOM SORNSURACHAT OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY, WHO IS A DOCTOR BY PROFESSION AND AN EXPERT ON DRUG ABUSE, HAS COME UP WITH A SOUND SUGGESTION. HE RECOMMENDS THAT POLICE PERSONNEL AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE ADDICTS BE CURED AND REHABILITATED FIRST. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO INFLUENCE TRAFFICKING AND, IF THEY ARE CURED, THEY WILL HELP CUT DOWN THE ILLICIT TRADE. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT SOCIETY HAS AN OBLIGATION BOTH TO ITSELF AND TO THESE ADDICTS TO HELP THEM BREAK THE CHAINS THAT BIND THEM TO THIS ABUSE. THE THREAT TO SOCIETY FROM THE MISUSE OF DRUGS CALLS FOR A PROGRAM OF STRENGTHENED LAW ENFORCEMENT, MORE RESEARCH, IMPROVED REHABILITATION AND BETTER EDUCATION OF YOUTHS ON THE RISKS THEY RUN. THE ENFORCEMENT OF NARCOTIC LAWS REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE AND HENCE CONSIDERABLE TRAINING. PROPER EVALUATION AND SOLUTION OF THE DRUG PROBLEM IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE GONE FORWARD TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, WE MUST ADMIT THAT WE ARE STILL FAR BEHIND ON SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUBJECT.

(END TEXT)
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 24152 280941Z

HSING HSIAN JIT PAO, THAILAND'S LARGEST CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, EDITORIALY WELCOMED U.S. AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE'S REPORTED STATEMENT TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DAWEE THULLAGSCHULLASAPYA THAT THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT THAILAND'S CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM, WHICH ATTEMPTS TO FIND CASH CROPS HILL TRIBESMEN IN NORTHERN THAILAND CAN GROW INSTEAD OF OPIUM. AUGUST 27 EDIT SAID, "MARSHAL DAWEE DISCLOSED THAT AMBASSADOR

WHITEHOUSE SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE
SOME FUNDS TO HELP HILL TRIBESMEN CULTIVATE SUBSTITUTE CROPS
INSTEAD OF OPIUM, IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE SOURCE OF THE RAW
MATERIAL FOR MAKING NARCOTICS. THAILAND WELCOMES THE EFFECTIVE
AMERICAN PLAN, WHICH WILL NOT ONLY INCREASE HILL TRIBES'
INCOME, BUT ALSO PERSUADE THEM TO GIVE UP OPIUM CULTIVATION FOR
PROFIT."
MCGINLEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO24152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-1266
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaalqr.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: harterdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2005 by harterdg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGKOK WORLD ON NARCOTICS FOR IEA, IPS, IBS, STATE FOR EA AND S/NM EDITORIAL IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AFTERNOON
DAILY BANG
TAGS: SNAR, TH
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006